Prime Minister's Statement on Simla Agreement

2619. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated that minor adjustments in Simla Agreement can be made with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the issue ever came up for discussion between the two countries in the past; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

पासपोर्ट के बिना ही विदेश यात्रा करने वाले लोग

2620. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बहुत से लोग पासपोर्ट के बिना ही विदेशों में पहुंच जाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में गत तीन वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस मामले में सरकार की विफलता के क्या कारण हैं तथा उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल): (क) पासपोर्ट/यात्रा दस्तावेज के बिना विदेश जाने के लिए आप्रवासन जांच चौकियों से गुजर कर भारत से बाहर जाना संभव नहीं है।

(ख) तथा (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Joint celebration of 50th Independence by India and Pakistan

2621. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose a joint celebration of fifty-years of Independence by India and Pakistan;

(b) whether he has invited a delegation of ten Pakistanis in U.K. to visit India; and

(c) the response of Pakistan to the proposal for joint celebration?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A group of persons of Pakistani origin from the U.K. expressed an interest to visit India. Their visit was facilitated and usual courtesies extended.

(c) Does not arise?

Joint exploration of natural gas by India and Bangladesh

2622. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of joint exploration of natural gas with the Government of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and details of the follow-up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Government have not taken up the issue of joint exploration of natural gas with the Government of Bangladesh. However, during the 5th meeting of the India-Bangladesh joint Economic Commission held in New Delhi from March 10—12, 1997, the Bangladesh side intimated that new exploration blocks have been identified for international bidding on a production sharing basis and Indian companies are welcome to participate in such bids.